

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

21. (Currently amended) A content addressable memory (CAM) device comprising:
- a CAM core to output a local priority number; and
- a cascade logic circuit coupled to the CAM core to receive the local priority number
- and having an input to receive at least one remote priority number from
- another CAM device, the cascade logic circuit being configured to compare
- the local priority number and the at least one remote priority number at one of
- a plurality of different times selected in response to a control value that
- indicates a disposition of the CAM device within a hierarchy of
- interconnected CAM devices..
33. The CAM device of claim 31 wherein the cascade logic circuit is further configured
- to disable the match address from being output from the CAM device if the remote
- priority value has a higher priority than the local priority value or if the first enable
- signal is in a second state.